

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 9 and further to recite that the substrate is aluminum. Claims 2-9 are canceled. Claims 10 and 13-20 are amended to change their dependencies. New claims 22-24 are added. Support for the amendments is found, for example, at page 67, line 5, the 6th line from the bottom of page 68, the 6th line from the bottom of page 70 and line 11 at page 71, and the original claims. No new matter is presented.

I. Response to Claim Objection

Claim 19 is objected to allegedly because its dependency is not clear. The Examiner states that claim 19 depends from claim 9, but refers to “the protective layer”, which is introduced in claim 10. Thus, it appears that claim 19 should be amended to depend from claim 10.

Claim 19 is amended herein to depend from claim 10, thereby obviating the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 13-14, 16-18 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoshima et al in view of Iwamoto et al.

Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoshima et al in view of Iwamoto et al and further in view of Oshima et al.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoshima et al in view of Iwamoto et al as applied to claim 10 and further in view of Kunita.

Independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a planographic printing plate precursor comprising a photosensitive layer disposed on a substrate, wherein the substrate is aluminum.

The cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention based on the following.

In each of the rejections, the Examiner relies on Iwamoto et al in part. Iwamoto et al (US 5,866,298) describes that low molecular weight carboxylic acid is added in order to improve development property.

On the other hand, one of the effects of the present invention is to improve raw stock storability (preservation stability), which is different from improving the development property of color resist.

When a planographic printing plate precursor is stored for a long time, there are cases in which development removability of a non-image area, and printing durability of an image area may deteriorate (6th line from the bottom of page 3 of the specification). This problem occurs particularly in a case where an aluminum substrate is used, due to the adsorptive property of aluminum. Accordingly, the problems to be solved are totally different between the case of a color filter which is exposed and developed relatively shortly after being coated, and the case of a planographic printing plate precursor which is disposed and developed after long time storage from being coated.

The technical fields of Aoshima et al (EP 1,235,107) (planographic printing plate precursor) and Iwamoto (color filter) are different from each other, so there is no motivation to combine the two inventions. In addition, even if the two inventions are combined, it would not have been obvious for a person skilled in the art to achieve the effects of the present invention.

Furthermore, the examples of the present invention show not only improvement of raw stock storability by adding low molecular weight carboxylic acid, but also improvement of sensitivity and printing durability, which are not described in Aoshima nor Iwamoto. In addition, it would not have been reasonably expected to obtain the effects of the present invention even by combining the disclosures of Aoshima. and Iwamoto.

Thus, the present invention is not rendered obvious by the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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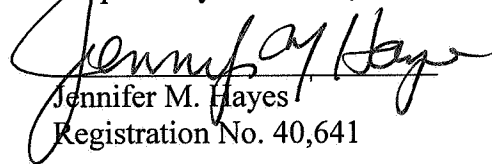
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